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KEEPSAKE PROGRAM FOR FAYETTE
COUNTY'S CELEBRATION OF ...

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HERITAGE



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● *FAYETTE COUNTY CELEBRATES*



1803 --- 1953

KEEPSAKE PROGRAM

FOR

FAYETTE COUNTY'S CELEBRATION

OF

OHIO'S SESQUICENTENNIAL



Published by the
FAYETTE COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Perse E. Harlow and J. E. Magly
Co-Chairmen, Souvenir Program Committee

EDITORIAL STAFF

Perse E. Harlow, Editor
Mr. Howard Allen, Mrs. Max Dice, Miss May Duffee, Miss Mary Elizabeth
Johnson, and Mr. B. E. Kelley.

Cover Design and Sketches—David Ellies

1803-1953

KEEPSAKE PROGRAM

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270



Published by the
FAYETTE COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

James E. Heston and A. E. Heston
Co-Chairmen, Executive Program Committee

EDITORIAL STAFF

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The Howard Allen Heston House, 1111 N. Main Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana
46802-1111, and to A. E. Heston

Cover Design and Illustration—David Ellis

Welcome to Fayette County!



As Fayette County joins with the rest of the state in celebrating Ohio's 150th birthday, I want to welcome each visitor and Fayette County resident to our birthday celebration as throughout the Sesquicentennial we highlight the different programs which make up the year's activities.

When this county was picked as a "pilot county" to lead the way in the Sesquicentennial observance, the executive committee decided that in addition to parades, pageants and many other items on the less serious side, some projects should be accomplished or started during 1953 that would be for the permanent good of Fayette County.

As agriculture is the chief industry in the county, one of the first programs set up was the Fayette County Green Pastures Improvement Program. This is a project which, by continuing to increase the income from our farms, will be the equivalent of bringing a new industry to our county. In the years to come, the Green Pastures program will increase in importance and value. Of equal prominence on the agricultural program is the two-day Ohio Conservation Field Days and Plowing Matches which will be held in this county this fall. This huge agricultural event will bring thousands of visitors to the county.

A President's Club has been established where important topics of concern to all organizations in the county can be discussed and then taken back

to the various clubs for concerted action. One of the most important projects of this club that is nearing completion now is the formation of a Fayette County Charitable Foundation which will enable residents of the community to give to a fund to be used for civic projects for the betterment of each person living in the county.

Our Fayette County History and this Keepsake Program are two historical publications which tell of the glorious background of the county and reminds us of our heritage. Both have been produced during this Sesquicentennial year.

To all the members of the twenty to thirty committees and their chairmen, I wish to extend my personal thanks for a fine job well done after weeks and months of work. They deserve all the credit for putting over the entire program that is focusing the Ohio spotlight on what Fayette County has done. To the citizens of the community, I wish to extend thanks for the magnificent support you have given our committee.

And so, to all of you, young and old, I hope 1953 will always be remembered as our Sesquicentennial year of achievement here in Fayette County.

Sincerely,

RALPH R. PENN, President
Fayette County Sesquicentennial
Committee, Inc.

Welcome to Fayette County!

At Fayette County, we are proud to be a part of the state in celebrating its 200th birthday. I want to welcome each citizen and Fayette County resident to our birthday celebration as we observe the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We highlight the different programs which make up the year's activities.

When the county was formed as a part of the state in 1792, the way in the developmental stages of the county was different from that of the present. The county was then a part of the state of Georgia and was one of the original 13 counties. The county was then a part of the state of Georgia and was one of the original 13 counties. The county was then a part of the state of Georgia and was one of the original 13 counties.

The Fayette County History and the Fayette County are two important publications which tell of the history and development of the county and its people. The Fayette County History and the Fayette County are two important publications which tell of the history and development of the county and its people. The Fayette County History and the Fayette County are two important publications which tell of the history and development of the county and its people.

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To all the members of the county, I want to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and successful year. I want to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and successful year. I want to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and successful year. I want to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and successful year. I want to extend my warmest wishes for a happy and successful year.

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A President's Club has been established which is open to all citizens. The President's Club has been established which is open to all citizens. The President's Club has been established which is open to all citizens. The President's Club has been established which is open to all citizens. The President's Club has been established which is open to all citizens.

Our Great Heritage Is Our Greatest Hope for the Future

*Fayette, we are proud of you
And of your people fine and true;
Of your fertile fields of grain,
Of livestock that blue ribbons gain;
Girls, boys with ambition filled—
With desire to do they are thrilled;
No better county in the state—
Named for one 'mong pioneers great;
Fayette, for thee we loudly cheer;
We all are glad we're living here.*

—May M. Duffee.

Fayette County does have a great heritage—one based on its pioneering spirit and the accomplishments of its people.

This year, we join with Ohio's other great counties celebrating the 150th anniversary of the state. This Sesquicentennial year gives us the opportunity to look back over our historical past through the medium of this "keepsake" program. We recall for you on the following pages some of the interesting and historical highlights of Fayette County's progress particularly through its first one hundred years. By means of the photographs in our book, we hope to remind you of scenes in days and

years gone by. It is hoped that the memories they recall will be pleasant ones.

Hope for the future is an important part of our thinking during this Sesquicentennial year—and we stop to wonder what the next 150 years will bring to the citizens of Fayette County. Will the growth and progress of past years be continued in the years to come? Everyone participating in the 150th birthday celebration of the great State of Ohio earnestly hopes and prays for the future progress, peace, and prosperity of our county, state, and nation. This souvenir program is dedicated to that hope.

★ ★ ★

Chronology of Memorable Events Down Thru the Years

1802—William Robinson came to Fayette County and made first settlement near what is now Jeffersonville. Allen's History says Robinson killed 15 bears, 3 catamounts, 15 elk and 100 deer in 1802. He came through Virginia into Ohio and settled first in Greene County in 1801.

1809—Jacob Coile built a corn-cracking mill in Union Township on Sugar Creek.

1809—Henry Snider moved into county, settled on Sugar Creek, and began to build a water-mill.

January 19, 1810—Fayette County was formed from Ross and Highland counties — took effect March 1st. Lower portion of Fayette was taken from Highland and upper section from Ross County.

June 6, 1810—First marriage was performed uniting Henry Ellis and Charity Harper.

1810—First county commissioners in Fayette County were Jacob Jamison, James Brooks, and John Harrold.

1810—Fayette County population, 1,854.

February 26, 1811—Date of record of Washington town plat. Town laid out between December 1, 1810, and above date.

1811—Joseph Raunek built first store in log building corner Market and Main streets in Washington.

1811—First jail built on present court-house grounds.

November 18, 1811—First session of Supreme Court held in Washington.

Autumn, 1812—Thomas McGara, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Fayette County and was the first person to practice medicine.

1813—First school in Washington was taught by Samuel Loofborrow in a double log house corner of Paint and Hinde Streets.

October 10, 1813—Presbyterian Church in Washington was first organized.

March, 1814—First Fayette County Court-House completed.

1814—A Mr. Lupton set up a spinning wheel and loom propelled by horse power for the manufacture of woolen goods.

1815—Court Street in Washington still had tree stumps in it and in wet weather wagons sank hub-deep in the mud.

1815—First store in Yankeetown on the Chillicothe-Urbana stage route.



This old toll house and its toll gate used to set on the Cincinnati-Zanesville Road opposite what is now the Washington Cemetery location. There were three or four other toll houses on highways passing through Washington. (Photo courtesy B. E. Kelley.)



1815—Bloomingburg (originally called New Lexington) laid out in 1815. March 4, 1816. Solomon Bowers added 20 more lots. Town was incorporated by act of legislature, Feb. 5, 1847.

November 22, 1817—First church organized in Bloomingburg, and a log hut erected.

April, 1818—Concord Township was formed from part of Greene Township.

1820—Fayette County population, 6,318.

1828—First court-house burned down.

February 21, 1829—Joel S. Bereman started first newspaper, "Freedom's Advocate."

1830—Fayette County population, 8,182.

April 10, 1830—Second Fayette County court-house completed.

1831—Thomas Ellis, first cooper in this part of the country, laid out the village of Martinsburg in Perry Township.

February 25, 1831—Washington was incorporated as a town.

March 1, 1831—Walter B. Wright and Chipman Robinson laid out town of Jeffersonville.

1835—Jasper was founded by the Bryan family, who put up a steam sawmill, grist mill, and erected several houses.

1837—Population of Washington about 300. Ohio Gazetteer and Traveler's Guide stated town had a printing office, several stores, two taverns, two groceries, a school house, and about 70 dwelling houses.

March 17, 1838—Jeffersonville incorporated.



In the late 1800's, stock sales were held on the streets of Washington and hundreds of cattle, horses and other livestock were sold each sale day. This scene is looking east on Court Street from the Main and Court intersections.
(From Howe's "History of Ohio")





Fayette County's second and third court-houses are shown in this photograph. The present court-house was completed on April 30, 1885, and the old one on the corner of Main and Court Streets was torn down some time after that date.

July 30, 1838—Thomas K. Perdue was first child born in New Martinsburg.

1840—Fayette County population, 10,984.

June, 1840—Marion Township was formed from part of Madison Township.

1845—Village of Staunton laid out by Willis Rowe.

December 2, 1845—Jasper Township was created out of parts of Concord and Jefferson Township.

June 4, 1845—Perry Township was formed from parts of Wayne and Greene Townships.

1849—Good Hope laid out by Robert Harper and James Sargent.

1850—Fayette County population, 12,726.

1852—C. & M. V. (now Pennsylvania) Railroad completed. First one in county.

1852—Fayette County market quotations—Flour, \$3.25; wheat, 62 cents; corn, 26 cents; oats, 23 cents; clover seed, \$4.50 per bushel; rice, 6 cents per pound; hams, 11 cents; molasses,

34 cents; candles, 19 cents per pound; sugar, 5 and 6 cents; cheese, 6 cents; coffee, 9 cents; pig iron, \$24 per ton; whiskey, 18³/₄ cents per gallon (no U. S. duty on it then).

1856—Washington Cemetery was platted.

1856—Two-story brick building erected for school on North St. between Temple and Paint, 8 rooms, total cost \$14,000.

October, 1858—First bank in Fayette County opened. The Fayette County Bank with James Pursell, Cashier.

1858—First issue of Washington Herald by William Millikan.

July 16, 1858—City ordinance was passed prohibiting boys from flying kites within city limits of Washington. Penalty not less than 50c and not over \$5.

April 18, 1859—Beginning of the county fair in this county.

1860—Fayette County population, 15,935.

1867—G. W. Smith hung in jailyard for murder of John Gray. First and only execution in county.

July 7, 1869—47 inmates moved into new Fayette County Infirmary, which had been built on 500 acres of land given to the county by Peter Carder.

1870—Fayette County population, 17,170.

1870—Washington Council passes ordinance prohibiting stores and shops from opening on Sunday.

1871—Stock sales were begun on the streets of Washington, held the last Tuesday of each month usually on Market Street and "trade alley."

September 11, 1871—Fire destroyed ten business buildings in Washington, beginning with L. C. Karney's carpenter shop.

1872—First fire department organized and Washington was divided into four wards.

1873—Tom Thumb midget troupe presented at Music Hall.

December 24, 1873—Dr. Dio Lewis lectured in Washington on havoc wrought by strong drink and tobacco. On Christmas morning, he spoke at the Presbyterian Church, and at the conclusion the "Women's Crusade" began. There were 14 saloons in Washington at that time and by February 11, 1874, the last saloon closed up. This was one of the first

three localities in the entire country in which real temperance crusades were inaugurated.

1874—A paper, The News, was established by W. C. Goehl and Frank N. Jones.

1875—D. T. & I. Railroad completed.

August 14, 1876—Washington city council passed ordinance prohibiting "fast driving" in the streets.

1879—C. H. & D. Railroad completed. Now Chilli-cothe division of B. & O.

1880—Fayette County population, 20,364.

June 7, 1883—Laying of cornerstone for new courthouse. Ceremony attended by immense throngs of people.

1884—Newark division of the B. & O. Railroad completed.

February 7, 1884—New clock installed in courthouse tower; was at that time second largest in United States.

February 22, 1884—Dedication of old High School building.

1885—Jackson Glove Factory began to make and sell work gloves—first factory of its kind in United States.

April 30, 1885—Present Fayette County Court-House completed.

September 8, 1885—Cyclone struck Washington C. H. around 8 P. M. Six persons killed; damage estimated at half million dollars.



January 29, 1895, is the date of this picture showing a street scene looking south on Main Street from a spot about in front of the present Union Bus Station. (From the Carnegie Library collection.)



"The Old Reliable," J. W. Duffee, operated a grocery in this same location for 45 years beginning in 1876. It was in a two-story frame building on the south side of Court Street, just past Fayette Street. Charles, J. W., and George Duffee are shown in the picture taken prior to 1895.
(Photo courtesy of May Duffee)



January, 1886—Opera House opened.

1888—Waterworks established in Washington C. H. supplying much purer water than was found in most private wells.

May 3, 1888—Cornerstone laid for Presbyterian Church, corner Market and Hinde Streets.

July 10, 1889—Washington C. H. streets first illuminated by electricity.

October 25, 1889—William McKinley delivered address in Opera House.

1890—Fayette County population, 22,309.

April 4, 1890—Mrs. Margaret Arnold died at her home at the age of 113, the oldest inhabitant Fayette County ever had.

1895—Henry Brown took out patent on Wonder Stove, which before 1900 was selling throughout United States and was being exported abroad.

April 27, 1895—Cornerstone laid for new Grace Methodist Church.

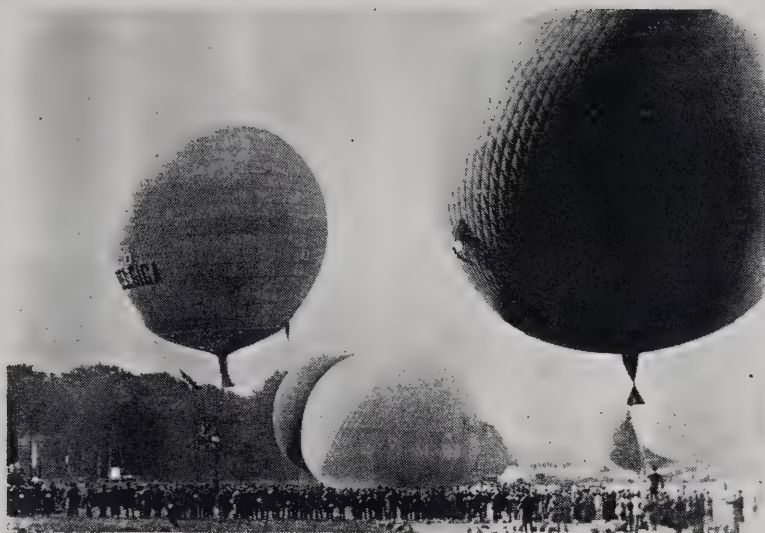
1897—Citizens Telephone Company established in Washington C. H.

March 5, 1897—Large meteor fell near New Martinsburg causing much alarm.

May 12, 1897—Cornerstone laid for Masonic Temple in Washington C. H.

April 27, 1898—Company "E," Ohio National Guard, left for Columbus to await call to active service in Spanish-American War.





On September 30, 1924, an experimental flight of balloons took off from what is now Gardner Park, an event which attracted thousands of people to Fayette County. Winner of the race came down near Appomattox Court House, Virginia.



- 1900—Fayette County population, 21,725.
- 1900—Population of Washington C. H., 5,751.
- March 10, 1900—Washington C. H. postoffice robbed of money and papers valued at \$5,000.
- November 23, 1900—Bank at Bloomingburg blown, but burglars could not force inner door to safe.
- 1902—Central heating plant was begun in building now occupied by American Legion. Believed to have been second one built in nation.
- April, 1902—Nine R. F. D. routes established in county: Washington C. H., 7; Jeffersonville, 1; and Bloomingburg, 1.
- July 19, 1904—Jeffersonville went "dry."

September 29, 1904—Streets of Bloomingburg first illuminated by electricity.

June, 1905—State G. A. R. encampment held in Washington C. H. 30,000 people packed the streets of the city on Thursday to see the greatest parade in the history of the state encampment up until that time.

1906—Washington Sales Pavillion erected: 600 feet long, 100 feet wide, room for 500 horses, and large amphitheatre with seating capacity of 1,000 persons.

September 30, 1906—Entire block in heart of Jeffersonville burned. Loss over \$60,000.

March 24, 1913—Record flood destroyed much property but fortunately there was no loss of life in Fayette County.



A record flood swept through Fayette County on March 24, 1913, causing much damage, but no loss of life. This photo was taken from in front of the B. & O. station looking towards the Hinde Street bridge. (Photos on this page by B. E. Kelley)



Fourth of July, 1900, looking east on Court Street. Buggies in those days provided as much of a traffic jam as automobiles do at the present time.

(From Allen's "History of Fayette County")



Special Events Program

Church Day . . .

The Sesquicentennial year in Fayette County very fittingly began with a religious theme. On Sunday, March 1, 1953, special emphasis was given to Ohio's 150th birthday in the churches of the community, followed by a religious mass meeting that afternoon in the Washington High School auditorium. Since the beginning of the first church in Fayette County, religion has played an important part in the life of its residents. Congregations of every denomination are represented: they labor long and tirelessly for their own church program and unite with all others in activities for the good of the entire county. The doors of our churches are always open to any who would enter to worship and pray.



Arbor Day . . .

Arbor Day gave our school children and adult organizations an opportunity to contribute something to the year's program that would be of a lasting nature. The Fayette County Sesquicentennial Committee provided beautiful flowering crab trees for each of the 17 grade schools in the city and county. Through the co-operation of the 10 garden clubs of the county, these trees were planted by the school children with appropriate programs. Although not definitely part of the Arbor Day program, the Business and Professional Women's Club planted two trees on the court-house lawn, and the 10 garden clubs each made a generous contribution towards a landscaping project at the Fayette County Memorial Hospital.



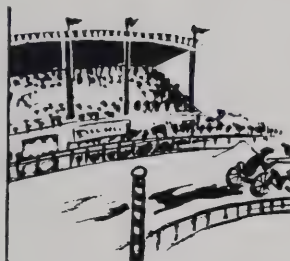
Pageant and Parade . . .

Highspot of the Sesquicentennial activities in the county is June 13 to 15, when the wonderful historical pageant will be presented, and on June 13 when the gigantic parade will be held in Washington C. H. Planned as the biggest parade ever held in the community, it will contain floats, queens, bands and other marching units. Our grand historical pageant presented each evening, Saturday through Monday, will portray the important events of our county's history. The cast will include individuals and groups from every section of the county. Countless hours of preparation has gone into the presentation of this spectacular pageant which captures the spirit that has made Fayette County great.



Special Events Program

Fayette County Fair . . .



"First in Ohio"—not only in actual timing but at the top so far as quality is concerned. Under the leadership of many able fair boards throughout the years, the Fayette County Fair has achieved a well-earned reputation. Since our county is primarily agricultural, it is only right that an opportunity be given the farmers and livestock breeders to display their winning products. Elsewhere in this program, you'll find a picture story on famous horses from this county. Harness races at the Fayette County Fair have done much to develop these wonderful horses. Year in and year out, many "big time" trotters and pacers winter at the fairgrounds here and train for the next season on tracks throughout the nation.



Baseball and Softball Tournaments . . .

Fayette County sport fans have a full program of activities in store for them this summer. Beginning July 23, the state semi-pro baseball tournament will be held here at Wilson Field with top ball clubs from all over the state competing. Known as the "Softball Capital of Ohio" the past two summers when the state A. S. A. softball tournaments have been played here, Washington C. H. moves into the big time this fall. The four-state regional tournaments for both men and women will take place here, with the state champions from Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, plus the city champs from Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati also in action. The girls' tourney begins on August 21 followed by the men on September 4.



State Plowing Matches . . .



The state's outstanding agricultural event is scheduled for Fayette County on September 8-9, when the state plowing matches and conservation field day take place on the Fayette Hereford Farm. This event is expected to attract the greatest number of people of any special event during the year. Based on attendance at the state matches in other years, at least 20,000 people should attend each day's session. In addition to the plowing matches, there are to be many interesting plantings and agronomy demonstrations, as well as displays and exhibits by nationally-known farm equipment dealers and suppliers. A special program is being planned for the ladies, too, so bring the entire family.

Grand Historical Pageant Program

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Early Inhabitants of Fayette County

Scene 1—The Indians who roamed this area before the arrival of the white settlers . . . the surveying of the land . . . early hunters and trappers and the story of the earliest settlers in this area.

The Formation of Fayette County Out of Highland and Ross Counties

Scene 2—The first Fayette County Court, presided over by Judge John Thompson, that set up the townships and named the county officials.

The Life of the Pioneers

Scene 3—Showing an early wedding, discussing the barn raisings, log rollings, quilting bees, and portraying an early square dance. Platting the city of Washington.

The War of 1812

Scene 4—The calling of the roll of one group of volunteers from Fayette County . . . the effect of the war on this community.

The History of the Fayette County Court-House

Scene 5—Discussion of the several court-houses and the lay-out of the city of Washington.

The History of the Schools of Fayette County

Scene 6—A scene from an early school in the county . . . the general story of the growth of the schools in the county.

The Story of the Churches in Fayette County

Scene 7—The singing of hymns . . . discussion of early churches . . . and how they have progressed to the present time.

The Railroads

Scene 8—The coming of an early railroad to Fayette County . . . how the railroads affected the county then and now.

The "Underground Railway"

Scene 9—The human railway that helped lead slaves to freedom . . . discussion of homes and people who figured prominently in Fayette County's contribution to this cause.

Grand Historical Pageant Program

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Civil War

Scene 10—War between the states . . . Fayette County's outstanding enlistment record . . . the happy story of a returning soldier.

The Great Crusade

Scene 11—Depicting the closing of the saloons on Court Street, and throughout the county, by the prominent women in the temperance movement.

The "Gay Nineties"

Scene 12—A scene of the Fayette County Fair . . . portrayal of famous Fayette County horses of years gone by.

Industry and Progress in Fayette County up to the Turn of the Century

Scene 13—The story of the first businesses of the county.

World War I

Scene 14—The soldiers of Company M leaving for the First World War . . . the patriotic fervor of the era . . . save the world for democracy.

The "Roaring" Twenties

Scene 15—Depicting the gayety of an age . . . the boom years leading up to the crash of '29.

The Second World War

Scene 16—Its direct effect on each and every inhabitant . . . the story of Fayette County's effort until victory is won.

Fayette County Today

Scene 17—"A new era of progress."

Finale

Scene 18

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One of the earliest homes built in the county. It is located off Route 70, south of Washington C. H. Samuel Sollars built it in 1828, and it is still being occupied.



The old Moon family tavern at Buena Vista.



An Indian trail ran just behind this old Aaron Hyer home on Sugar Creek on Route 22.



Samuel Myers built this home, before the Civil War, on the Myers Road above Bloomingburg. He was a captain in the War of 1812 and a son of Jacob Myers who fought in the Revolutionary War.



The chimney is in the exact center of this house and a circular stairway winds around it. Humphrey Hidy built it about 1846. It's on the Bookwalter Road.

Historical County





Built by David Persinger around 1840, this is believed to be the only house in the country with the old-type "balloon construction."



The Carder homestead on the Old Springfield Pike was an inn, complete with livestock pens and sorting lots where drovers could keep their stock overnight.

Fayette Homes



Each of these Fayette County homes has an interesting story behind it in history.



An example of the early Pennsylvania Dutch style of architecture is this house now occupied by Chester Zimmerman. It was built in the 1830's.



One of the Fayette County "underground railway" stations is this Fayette County home owned by Tom Parrett.

(All photos by Mrs. Max Dice)



This old Thompson farm, located on the Waterloo Pike, was the home of many famous running horses. It was always an event when the horses paraded through Washington streets en route to the railroad station for shipment.



Remember These?

The old covered bridge is a fast disappearing relic of bygone days, in fact, only one is still in use in Fayette County at the present time. This bridge used to span Paint Creek on the Chillicothe Road.



In the early days of Fayette County, the mills were very important to the settler's life. This is a picture of the old Day mill at Rock Mills, one of several in the county at one time.



This old double covered bridge was across Paint Creek on Route 22, near New Holland. It was 102 years old at the time it was torn down.
(Photos on this page by B. E. Kelley)





AN EYE VIEW
 OF
WASHINGTON, C. H.
 LOOKING
FAYETTE CO. OHIO
 TO THE EAST
 1867



Fayette County Horses Are a Tradition and a Legend

★ ★ ★



In Fayette County, fine horses have been a tradition and a legend for more than one hundred years. Horses bred within the confines of the county have raced and won at the prominent tracks everywhere and exceptional horses have been bought from our people for export to foreign lands.

Only two types of horses have found favor here—the Standardbred, which comprises trotters and pacers, and the Thoroughbred, which is the horse that races at a running gait. Quite a few show horses have also been bred and exhibited at the horse shows, there being at present two large stock farms where saddle horses are bred.

As of now, the high interest is in the activities of a number of the fastest horses in the county which have been bred, trained, and raced by residents of the community. Over 100 horses are trained each winter at the Fairground track and shipped to the big metropolitan tracks to take part in the season's racing campaign. And an odd angle of the horse interest is: how it seems to reach so many of the people of the county. Even those who have no technical knowledge of race horses and racing are more or less familiar with the racing luck of many of the stars of the current season.

How did it come about? A small county—yet widely known for its splendid horses. One reason is that the men interested in producing the best as breeders have reached far afield in the acquisi-

tion of the best blood lines that can be had. And those stallions and mares brought to Fayette County and mated with the well-bred stock already here have often produced a sensational colt trotter or pacer. But the best breeding—the keenest selection of seed stock—must have something more added and the old timers have always been convinced that the soil on which these colts were foaled and raised has a lot to do with the way they later have gone to fame and fortune. And they cite two reasons: one, that the soil is underlaid with limestone which gives the colt the strong bone and sound feet, and then the wonderful bluegrass—native to Fayette County—that gives the growth and strength to start the strain of racing training.

In a brief sketch such as this, I have refrained from mention of any horse or owner by name for the good reason that there are hundreds that could be named and lack of space forbids.

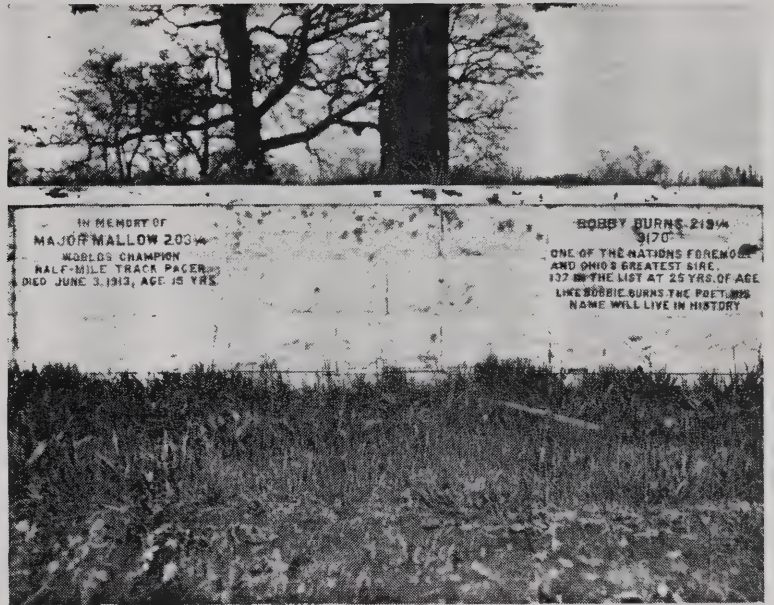
But I want to say a few words about our most famous horse: how he lived and how he left us. "Bobby Burns" his name was—foaled in Kentucky, a beautiful gray stallion, fine and trim at every point. Men from this county hunting a young sire to use on the local mares liked his pedigree and appearance, and he was purchased and brought to Fayette County in 1891.

Those days there were no motor cars or trucks—no hard roads—all were gravel, dusty in dry times—and the transport from farm to town was



Here is a picture of the Bobby Burns monument in the infield at the Fayette County Fairground. Read about one of the most famous horses of Fayette County in the accompanying article.

(Photo by Don Bandy)



all by horse hitched to vehicle. So, if a stallion could sire colts strong and sound that could get over the roads quicker his services were in demand. The immediate result of the advent of Bobby Burns into Fayette County was sensational. Not only did he sire strong colts, but it was quickly discovered that almost without exception they could trot or pace very fast.

Some were placed in training and their progress was such that soon owners from other places were attracted to this wonder horse that seemed to get colts faster than sire or dam. And his fame grew and the years passed, and Bobby Burns became a name famous in the harness-racing world.

The following quotation appeared about the turn of the century, showing how his fame had spread: "a self-made sire who sires extreme speed, game race horses, show horses, the best individual

in the Grand Circuit in 1905, the highest-priced stallion in 1905, the fastest-trotting stallion in a race in 1905, the largest money-winners in 1905, sire of more high-priced colts than any sire in Ohio, holder of two world's records, and his sons and daughters are breeding on."

And so, Fayette County glowed with pride in those golden years. And one morning in 1913 the word went out "Bobby Burns died during the night." Within the hour, a crowd of sorrowing admirers had gathered and it was decided that the great horse should be buried with honors.

This was done—on the highest point of the infield at the Fairground track—and soon a suitable monument was erected with the proper inscription.

And there the old monarch sleeps today!

HOWARD C. ALLEN





This cyclone picture is of the old D. T. & I. railroad station looking toward Court Street. Notice the old ice wagon in the foreground and the early model locomotive in the center of the picture.

A picture of the C. & M. V. railway station showing the destruction in that corner of the city. The photo was taken with the camera facing the corner of East and Main Streets.





An outstanding picture of the havoc caused by the cyclone which struck Washington C. H. and Fayette County on September 8, 1885. The photographer was standing in the court-house tower facing the corner of Court and Main Streets.

Do you remember the old covered bridge which spanned Paint Creek on West Court Street. This is what was left of it after the cyclone struck. (All cyclone pictures from the collection of B. E. Kelley.)





A rare old photograph of the second Fayette County court-house. Notice the old town pump on the corner of Court and Main. This is an earlier picture than the one you'll find in the front of the book. (Photo courtesy B. E. Kelley.)



All of the automobiles in Fayette County are supposed to have been included in this picture taken in front of the old Imperial Hotel on September 20, 1907. In the background can be seen the old C. & M. V. passenger and freight stations which are still standing. (Photo from the Carnegie Library collection.)

The Fayette County Sesquicentennial Committee, Inc.

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The Young Business Men's Committee with Robert Green, Chairman.

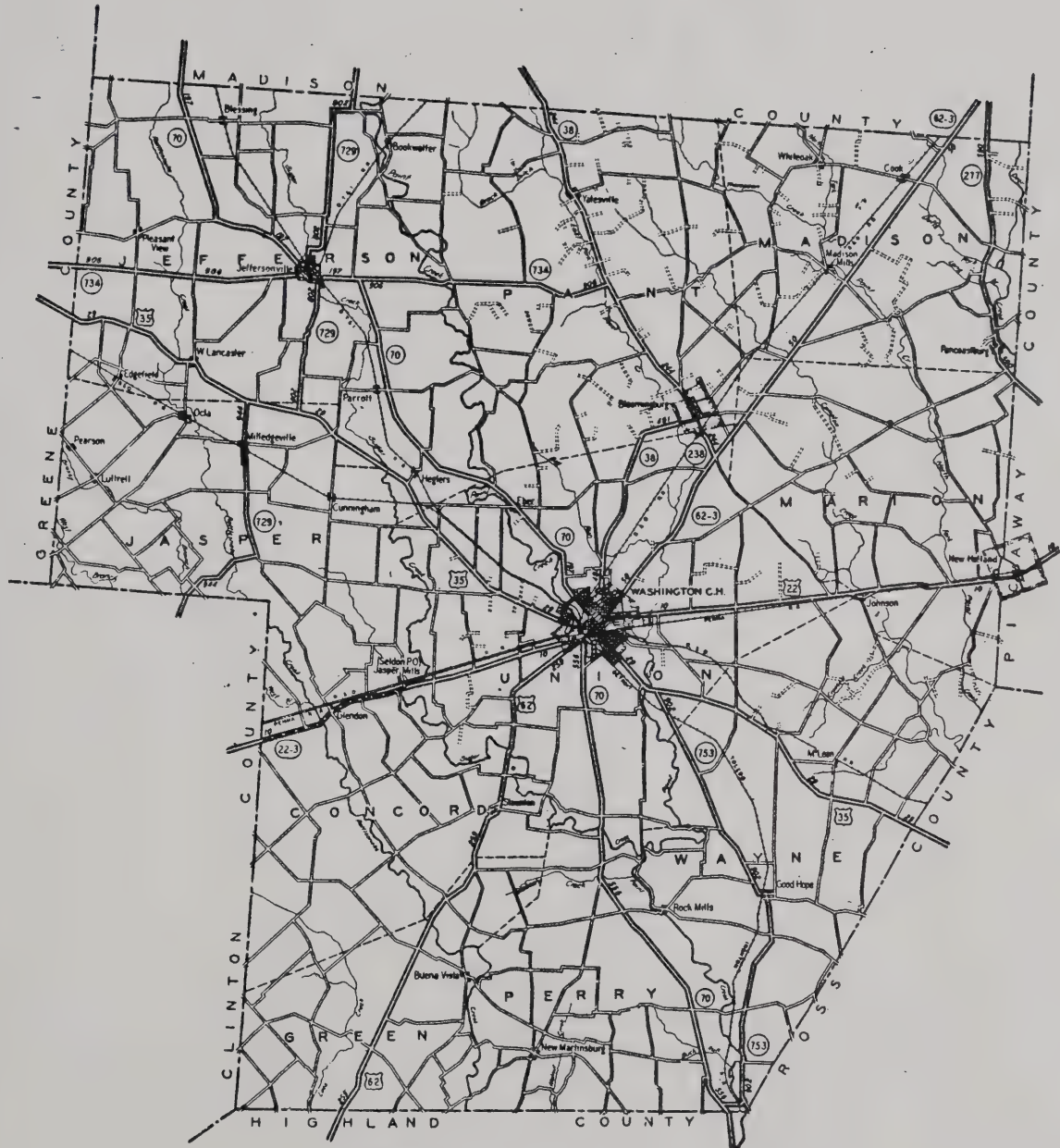
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